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Summary record of the 20th meeting
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Chair: Ms. Nipomici (Vice-Chair) ..... (Republic of Moldova)

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In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.2 and L.4)

Draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/C.2/71/L.2)

1. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was a roll-over from the 2015 resolution and reflected the concern expressed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/217) regarding the lack of implementation of the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the subject.

Draft resolution on combating sand and dust storms (A/C.2/71/L.4)

2. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that dust and sand storms posed serious challenges to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions; the draft resolution underscored the need to promptly undertake measures to address those challenges at the regional and international level.

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.12, A/C.2/71/L.19)

Draft resolution on the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028 (A/C.2/71/L.12)

3. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Brunei Darussalam, San Marino and Trinidad and Tobago, said that the proposal for a new International Decade of Action under the motto "Water for Sustainable Development" had been made by the President of Tajikistan in 2015 and was intended to strengthen and enhance the progress made during the "Water for Life" Decade and create a solid platform for the consolidation of efforts aimed at furthering sustainable management of water resources in the post-2015 period.

Draft resolution on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (A/C.2/71/L.19)

4. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was important to recognize that the purpose of the draft resolution was not meant to detract from the primacy of the 2030 Agenda, but instead to focus on the complementary work being done in pursuit of the broader objective of sustainable development as a whole. The draft resolution sought to address some of the gaps in aligning the work of the General Assembly and the 2030 Agenda, in particular in the area of sustainable consumption and production, and explore ways in which the issue could be integrated into the work of the General Assembly in a way which complemented and enhanced the work already being done.

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.6 and L.14)

Draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/71/L.6)

5. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group recognized that an integrated management approach involving all relevant stakeholders provided the best option for protecting the Caribbean Sea, the most valuable shared resource of many Caribbean Member States.

Draft resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/71/L.14)

6. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Samoa Pathway was the blueprint for the sustainable development of small island developing States. Crucially, the draft resolution called for the convening of a two-day high-level review of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by the General Assembly in September 2019.

(c) Disaster risk reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.9 and L.13)

Draft resolution on disaster risk reduction (A/C.2/71/L.9)

7. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution sought to ensure the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Particular focus was placed on target (e), given the shorter time frame, with a view to achieving a substantial increase in the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

Draft resolution on an effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon (A/C.2/71/L.13)

8. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the 2015-2016 El Niño phenomenon had been the third strongest on record and had affected more than 60 million people, particularly in developing countries, impacting health, economy and food production, with particularly powerful impacts on those whose livelihoods depended on agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry. The draft resolution put great emphasis on the need to transcend the humanitarian assistance approach and adopt a multidisciplinary, development-based response involving the strengthening of national institutional capacities.

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.17)

Draft resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (A/C.2/71/L.17)

9. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the language of the draft resolution had been carefully crafted to ensure its adherence to previously agreed language in the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, General Assembly resolutions 70/226 and 70/303, and the report of the Secretary- General. The draft resolution featured a number of updates and included action-oriented and forward-looking elements.

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.10)

Draft resolution on implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/C.2/71/L.10)

10. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introduced draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.10 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.7)

Draft resolution on implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development (A/C.2/71/L.7)

11. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution built on General Assembly resolution 70/207 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its seventy-first session, a report on progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation. It reflected the relevant recommendations in the report of the Secretary-

General (in document A/71/216) and was largely procedural in nature in order to avoid adding substantive new elements the might prejudge the outcome of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to be held in December 2016.

(g) Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.5)

Draft resolution on the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/C.2/71/L.5)

12. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution was the second one since the United Nations Environment Assembly had come into being as a universal assembly of all Member States, and was the first to be considered since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Given that the United Nations Environment Programme made most of the major decisions in Nairobi, where meetings of the world's environment ministers were held, the draft resolution was essentially procedural. Paragraph 3 had been added with a view to enabling the President of the United Nations Environment Assembly to provide a briefing to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017.

(h) Harmony with Nature (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.8)

Draft resolution on Harmony with Nature (A/C.2/71/L.8)

13. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (*continued*) (A/C.2/71/L.11)

Draft resolution on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (A/C.2/71/L.11)

14. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the 2030 Agenda set a historic, forward-looking and action-oriented framework for sustainable development which included access to sustainable energy as a Goal for the first time. The scope of the draft resolution had been expanded from previous years from mere "promotion of new and renewable sources of energy" to "ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all". While recognizing the link between energy and climate change, the draft resolution served as a placeholder for language pending the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. The draft resolution supported the improvement of existing mechanisms for follow-up and review by calling on the Secretary-General to make concrete proposals in his report on the implementation of the resolution. The distinction between that report and the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All should be maintained, with the former providing additional recommendations on the institutional framework for dialogue on sustainable energy and the latter reviewing progress, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Decade.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*) (A/71/89-E/2016/69, A/71/283, A/71/422 and A/71/539)

15. **Mr. Takdir** (Indonesia) said that people living in hunger and poverty could not be expected to focus on sustainable development if they were unable to meet their most basic needs. That underscored the need to end poverty and hunger and address barriers to food security such as land scarcity due to population increase, difficulties gaining access to financing, technology and information, uneven distribution of food production, climate change and international trade distortions. Increasing sustainable agricultural production should go hand in hand with increasing its resilience. It was vital to increase public and private investment in sustainable agriculture, especially for the benefit of local smallholders, to promote food security, improve nutritional outcomes and reduce inequality. Public stockholding should be considered with a view to maintaining food security in the context of global trade. Such a programme would make food available at government-regulated prices to support low-income or resource-poor producers.

16. To feed the 250 million people of Indonesia, his Government had created laws and policies highlighting food security, bearing in mind that maintaining domestic food availability and food sovereignty was in

the national interest. Indonesia's national development plan for 2015 to 2019 aimed at promoting sustainable production for key crops and livestock, stabilizing food prices and availability, increasing the quality and quantity of food consumed, mitigating food vulnerability and enhancing the welfare of food producers. His Government had also enacted policies to tackle land scarcity and uneven distribution of food, which focused on healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture as means of enhancing food security. Given the increasingly limited arable land and conversion of land for non-agricultural purposes, his Government had reemphasized the need to mainstream the marine sector and fisheries and other ocean-related issues and would continue its efforts to improve the living conditions of people engaged in small-scale fisheries around the archipelago.

17. **Mr. Bilan** (Ukraine) said that global food insecurity continued to represent a serious threat for humanity, with the number of people suffering from hunger around the world remaining unacceptably high. That situation was aggravated by the global economic crisis. Ukraine welcomed the United Nations initiatives aimed at halving global hunger and encouraged intensified coordination between all United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, which must continue to work together using the comparative advantages of different bodies to increase effectiveness, including Delivering as One at the country level.

18. However, those measures were not enough; a more formal system of global governance was needed. As a member of the Committee on World Food Security, Ukraine fully supported its reform and transformation into the basis for a global multi-stakeholder partnership which would serve as a platform for considering complex problems and reaching consensus on solutions.

19. Ukraine was going through one of the most difficult stages in its modern history and was grateful to the international community and organizations for their support and assistance. His Government commended the important work done by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme (WFP) to help it respond to the current humanitarian challenges. In conflict-affected areas with limited humanitarian access, WFP continued to provide food parcels to the most vulnerable people, including internally displaced persons, host families and those trapped in conflict hotspots.

20. Despite the difficult conditions caused by military action in the eastern regions of the country, Ukraine remained among the strongest players on the international food market, with the grain harvest for 2015-2016 expected to reach a record 63 million tons, allowing it to fulfil all agricultural export obligations. Cooperation with United Nations specialized agencies remained a priority of Ukraine's foreign economic activity and an important factor in the country's national food strategy. Despite existing challenges, as one of the top 10 global grain exporters Ukraine stood ready to continue working with the international community on resolving the problem of global hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and ensuring the most basic of human rights, the right to food.

21. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that the newly formed Government of his country had developed an action plan for the period from 2016 to 2020, reflecting his country's sustainable development vision for 2030. His Government had also launched programmes on healthy food, national production, and meat and milk production with a view to increasing the competitiveness of food production and thus boosting exports. It aimed to ensure food safety by organizing and stabilizing food supplies. The legal environment for the production of organic food was being developed through financial, investment and tax policies.

22. Another initiative was a crop cultivation campaign, which contributed about 20 per cent of his country's total agricultural output, and had introduced zero tillage technology to conserve soil fertility and increase crop yields through the introduction of harvesting machinery. As a result, his country had achieved self-sufficiency in wheat production. The action plan included a target of improving food safety through the establishment of a food preparation, processing, storage, transportation and sale system. His Government had recently celebrated World Food Day in collaboration with international partners and international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

23. **Mr. Bolaji** (Nigeria) said that although the food crisis was global, African countries were among the worst affected. Since agriculture was key to sustainable

food security, the current food crisis should be seen as an opportunity to prioritize agriculture, especially in Africa. Regional and international support was needed to assist developing countries in enhancing productivity and nutritional quality, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. His country therefore supported the partnership between the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative, the Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel. That partnership would develop long-term strategies to tackle the endemic food crises in the Sahel. International efforts in support of a green revolution in Africa should be mainstreamed into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme launched by the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

24. His country also supported the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge initiative, which had since been fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, whose twin-track approach to food security and nutrition security was particularly welcome since it addressed the root causes of hunger and poverty among the most vulnerable. Efforts to achieve food security and poverty eradication should be nationally articulated and designed. His Government had launched an agricultural promotion policy to address two key gaps in Nigeria's agriculture and food security, namely, the drain on foreign exchange caused by food imports needed to compensate for low agricultural productivity; and the insufficient quality of food exports as a result of a weak inspectorate system, poor coordination among relevant agencies, and poor knowledge of target markets.

25. His Government had outlined medium- and long-term solutions to ensuring food security, including a graduate farmers' scheme providing soft loans to university graduates interested in farming; support for rural agricultural development; and irrigation schemes. It had also mapped out a comprehensive strategy to revitalize agriculture through an anchor borrowers' programme to boost domestic production. Agriculture and food security remained key to achieving internationally agreed development goals and the 2030 Agenda in particular. There should therefore be more investment in agricultural research and development; increased funding and investment in agricultural production; and a holistic and inclusive approach to sustainable agriculture and food systems.

26. **Mr. Rakhmetov** (Kazakhstan) said that, as one of the world's largest grain producers, his country attached great importance to food security and nutrition. Up to 80 per cent of its land was suitable for agriculture and it ranked in second place in terms of arable land per capita. It was also among the world's top 10 food exporters. The new railway from Kazakhstan to the Persian Gulf via Turkmenistan and Iran would enable a fivefold increase in wheat exports from Kazakhstan. His country was addressing the issue of food security by being the largest donor of humanitarian in Central Asia.

27. The vulnerability of developing countries to drought, floods and other natural disasters still remained relevant. Assistance from wealthier countries was often delayed or insufficient because of the lack of a systematic approach. Existing international profile structures were not capable of tackling challenges in certain regions, especially Africa, the Middle East and some Asian countries. A special international structure should therefore be established to address food security issues at the regional level. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was the perfect platform for developing that idea. The President of Kazakhstan had proposed the establishment of a mutual food assistance organization within OIC and the inaugural session of the General Assembly of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), headquartered in Astana, had been held in 2016. The establishment of IOFS would facilitate the supply of grain and other food to States members of OIC, and lead to ambitious investment and infrastructure projects.

28. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that much had been achieved in reducing hunger, malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies but the challenge of ending hunger and achieving food security by 2030 was becoming more complex. The difficulty of increasing agricultural production, tackling climate change and reducing food losses was compounded by mass migrations within and between countries, and by war and violence that had uprooted large populations from productive areas.

29. In his address to the World Food Programme in June 2016, Pope Francis had warned of the dangers of

seeing hunger and poverty purely as statistics and of becoming immune to other people's tragedies. They were in no way natural or inevitable. Extreme poverty should therefore be "denaturalized" and seen as a troubling reality and not as a statistic. Hunger should also be "debureaucratized". It was a paradox that at a time when there was more than enough food for everyone, not all could eat. It was also paradoxical that whereas aid and development projects encountered political obstacles, skewed ideologies and impenetrable customs barriers, the trade in weaponry did not face those obstacles. The free circulation of arms in many parts of the world meant that wars were fed, and people were not. Hunger was sometimes even used as a weapon of war. Ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030 would require not only increased food production and better food distribution but also peace, social justice, solidarity and compassion.

30. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Food Programme) said that the 2030 Agenda went beyond business as usual and sought to achieve a world without hunger. The three Rome-based agencies would continue to build on their complementarities to ensure that people and the planet thrived and that no one was left behind. The way food was grown, processed, distributed and consumed would affect the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems should be prioritized, and there was a need to revitalize the agricultural sector and invest sustainably in rural development, especially in developing countries, while reaching the most vulnerable first, prioritizing human rights, addressing injustice and empowering women and young people. Strong political will would be required to address that complex challenge, along with the contribution of relevant actors, including the private sector, civil society and academia.

31. Reduced rural poverty and greater well-being required decent work, higher incomes, support for research and innovation, better land tenure and access to natural resources. A new holistic vision and urgent action were needed to leave no one behind. The vision of the Rome-based agencies involved bridging the gaps between humanitarian and development approaches to address crises and promote the self-reliance of displaced persons through investment in preparedness and long-term development to build resilience and break the cycle of crises.

32. Solving one problem could often solve a range of others. Sustainable agricultural development enabled poor farmers to lift themselves out of poverty and improve their own food security and nutrition; feed the world's growing population; and contribute to their countries' economic growth and development. The effects of climate change would require sustainable agricultural practices, including through diversified production, but food losses during storage, transport and at the retail and consumption stages also needed to be minimized. Rather than simply growing more food, the benefits of doing so should reach everyone for generations to come.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.